

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME V No. 2 SPRING 1975

Quarterly



*The Gathering of
the Green Mountain Boys
for the
Capture of Fort Ticonderoga*

Rutland Historical Society, 101 Center St., Rutland, Vt.

The *Quarterly* is published by the Rutland Historical Society for the citizens of the original New Hampshire Grant of Rutland which today includes The City of Rutland, Rutland Town, West Rutland Town and Proctor. This issue is also the official program, or calendar of events, commemorative of the Gathering of two hundred years ago. These commemorations have been planned by the Bicentennial Committees of the several towns in the area and were co-ordinated by a County committee headed by Bill Hart and Bev Davidson. Thomas K. Egan of Rutland has capably served as Heritage Chairman of the County and especial thanks are due him for his conception and execution of many of the events listed here. Others who have served on special committees and have worked closely with the editor should be singled out: George J. Covalt of West Rutland—Rev. Emerson; Mike Cauty of Mendon—Beach run; Aldo Manfredi of Rutland City—Parade.

Because of an extraordinarily large printing of this issue the price is much lower than usual. The *Quarterly* is sent free to members of the Society and dues are nominal: \$2.00 per year for regular members of any age or calling; \$10.00 for those who wish to assist us financially.

1882 - Ella Bean Livingston - 1975

Mrs. Livingston, one of the Society's most generous benefactors, died in January in her ninety-third year. Her years were many and fruitful and the Livingston Collection of Indian Crafts will help to keep her full life in our minds for years to come. The Livingston Collection will be on exhibit throughout this season.

It is touch-and-go whether the Museum of the Society will be open in time for the Week of the Gathering because needed repairs to the building may not be completed in time.

Edward "Ted" Williams, curator of Rokeby, the Rowland E. Robinson homestead in Ferrisburg, has written *Black Forest*. His wife, Janet, has provided water color illustrations for the book, which is available at the Hartford Bookstore.

The cover symbolizes two great events in Vermont history: the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by the Green Mountain Boys in 1775, and the founding of Vermont as an independent republic in 1777.

This original design was conceived and executed by a member of both the Rutland Historical Society and the Southern Vermont Artists. The artist, who prefers to remain anonymous, has turned over to the Society the copyright of this design and we proudly publish it at this appropriate time.

Forming a circular border are the words Ethan Allen later claimed he used in demanding the surrender of the Fort. At the bottom of the border is the name of the hero of Ticonderoga and the date of its capture. The script used has been adapted by the artist from the graceful handwriting of Dr. Jonas Fay of Bennington who was present at the capture of the Fort and who served later as the capable clerk of most of the Conventions in the New Hampshire Grants. The flourish used by Fay in signing his name is combined with Allen's sabre to show that Vermont was formed by action of both the pen and the sword. In 1780 Fay and Allen collaborated in publishing in Hartford a twenty-nine page pamphlet entitled "A Concise Refutation of the Claims of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay to the Territory of Vermont. . ."

The central design is rich in allegory—some of it is obvious; much of it is subtle and obscure. The origin of the name "Vermont," supposedly an acronym of the French words *verte* and *montagne* is depicted by two symbols. 'Ver,' or green, is represented by two evergreen trees; 'mont,' or mountain, by the letter "M" formed by two snow-capped peaks. The French curves at the ends of the "M" harken to the days of French influence and Samuel de Champlain. The loop and cross at the mid-point of the "M" suggest the Church and hint at the symbol for Woman. The Church is recalled by the early French missions and the glebe lots and first-settled minister lots in each of Benning Wentworth's New Hampshire grants. The contribution of women to Vermont history antedates the times of Molly Stark and Ann Story and does not stop with the long lifetime of Julia Dorr.

Two hundred years of Vermont history are summed up in the twenty whorls of branches on the evergreens, each whorl representing a decade. The dates 1777 and 1791 are most significant to Vermonters: the first is the year of Vermont's independence as a republic; the second is the year Vermont was admitted into the Federal union. Jonas Fay's calligraphy is faithfully reproduced here, even to the reverse slant of his number "1."

There are fourteen stars, one for each year of Vermont independence. Vermont is also the fourteenth state in the Union. The two pairs of stars flanking the evergreens symbolize two states—Connecticut and Pennsylvania; both were influential in Vermont's formative years. For five months early in 1777 the members of the Convention referred to the area as "New Connecticut." Vast numbers of the Green Mountain boys were born in the Nutmeg state, the most prominent being the Allen brothers; one of lesser fame was the Tory and wit, the Rev. Samuel A. Peters, author of the "Blue Laws of New Haven Colony," who claimed to have christened the state "Vermont" from the heights of Killington Peak. The laws of Connecticut, the "laws of God and State," influenced our early Councils.

Pennsylvania lent its liberal constitution which was adopted with few changes by the early Vermont Conventions. An influential Pennsylvanian was Dr. Thomas Young of Philadelphia who advised the early Vermont Conventions and who also may lay claim to giving the new republic its present name.

The three stars below the date 1791 are those of the three states which contended for the land bordering them. They are, of course, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York.

Which star is Vermont's?

The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution by Bernard Bailyn. Cambridge: Belknap Press (1967) Paperback \$2.98.

Reviewed by Dr. James J. Cullina

There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come. The notion of liberty was ripe in the land two hundred years ago and the success of the Revolution was inevitable.

Bailyn, who won a Pulitzer Prize for this book, documents the theses "the American Revolution was above all else an ideological, constitutional, political struggle." He discovered, while editing Revolutionary pamphlets, that this ideology was more than the abstract syllogisms of John Locke; it was a militant and applied creed which Bailyn calls the transforming libertarian radicalism of the Revolution.

The colonists, in the events after 1763, saw, to quote Bailyn "a pattern in the measures taken by the British government and in the actions of officials in the colonies . . . what appeared to be nothing else than a deliberate assault launched surreptitiously by plotters against liberty both in England and in America.

Bailyn masterfully pinpoints this suspicion of an active conspiracy of power against liberty. It assumed specific forms, such as: fear the Church of England was imposing an Anglican episcopacy on the colonies; hatred of the Stamp Act; institution of permanent judicial tenure and the weakening of trial by jury through the institution of single judges; arrival of two regiments constituting a standing army and finally a conspiratorial ministry which usurped the prerogatives of the Crown and systematically corrupted the independence of the House of Commons. This conspiracy rose from corruption.

In the chapter "Transformation" the author reveals evidence of a transforming and elevating vision. Provincialism was gone; Americans stood side by side with the heroes of historic battles for freedom and with the few remaining champions of liberty in the present. "What were once felt to be defects—isolation, institutional simplicity, primitiveness of manners, multiplicity of religion, weakness in the authority of the state—could now be seen as virtues. . ."

The colonies probed critically at traditional concepts such as representation and consent; the nature of constitutions and of rights and the meaning of sovereignty. Not only did they provide the rational grounds of resistance to the authority of Parliament but, by 1776, these concepts had become matters of the most immediate, local urgency, for by then the colonies had begun their extraordinary work of constitution writing.

In the final chapter Bailyn notes that the institution of an established religion was questioned and condemned. The writings of William Livingston in 1752 and '53 advanced for the first time in American history the concept that public institutions, because they were 'public,' should be, if not secular, at least nondenominational. The Baptists and other non-conformists joined the campaign for religious liberty with that for civil liberty. This was dramatically illustrated on the eve of October 14, 1774 when the Massachusetts delegation to the first Continental Congress was invited by a group of Philadelphians to Carpenter's Hall to "do a little business." A number of Quakers confronted John Adams with the discrepancy between the way "in which liberty in general is now beheld" and the way the Baptists were treated in Massachusetts.

This is an incredibly complex and weighty work of prime source scholarship. It will not command a wide reading public but it deserves to be read by anyone expecting to understand a tumultuous period in our history.

Dr. Cullina, a frequent contributor to the *Quarterly* teaches art at Green Mt. Union and art education at Castleton State.

A BATTLE IS JOINED

The capture of Ticonderoga sealed the fate of the Revolution. This was not a defensive action, as was Concord. This was offense and it embarrassed the Continental Congress which was forced reluctantly to accept this act of aggression toward the mother country. This landmark engagement, although minor with respect to men involved or casualties, was of tremendous importance. It stiffened the determination of the Americans to carry on the war, let alone the quantity of cannon it provided for the siege of Boston. It sparked a skirmish which has raged without abatement ever since; a bitter battle of the pen, involving the adherents of Ethan Allen on one hand—Frederic van der Water and Stewart Holbrook are two; and the apologists for Benedict Arnold on the other—including Kenneth Roberts and Allen French.

Aligned on one side are those who feel that the cause of American independence was aided by the prolonged imprisonment of Allen, thus keeping an inept military commander from blundering as Allen did at Quebec. On the other side are those who can never forgive Arnold his defection but who overlook the intrigue against Arnold by Gates, Conway and Burr. Allen's military prowess was perhaps best summed up by the vote of the Vermont Convention formed in July 1775 to elect officers of the newly authorized Green Mountain regiment. Seth Warner was elected by a vote of 45 to 5 over Allen.

The lyric quality of many of Julia Dorr's poems lends itself to a musical setting. No examples of such songs have been seen by us but two poems "Margery Grey" and "Rena" were sung at the Wallingford High School graduation exercises in 1893, according to Louise Newton Adams.

Was William Dawes, Jr. who helped Paul Revere spread the alarm on the early morning of April 19th, 1775 a distant kin of Julia C. R. Dorr? The sole surviving grandson of Mrs. Dorr, James Bryan Dorr of New Orleans, claims in his family genealogy *Some Branches of the Dorr Family* that in the course of a century and a half the name Dorr had been changed to Dawes.



The Week
of the
Gathering
May 2 to 9, 1975.



PARSON EMERSON AT CONCORD.

Once the die had been cast on Lexington's Green and at Concord's North Bridge on that April 19th two hundred years ago the rebels gathered like a swarm of angry hornets for the assault on Ticonderoga. From Salisbury and Sheffield and Caanan in Connecticut came the Allens and the Phelps; from Pittsfield and Williamstown and Greenwich came the Eastons, the Sargeants and the Harrises; and from the backwoods settlements in the Grants—from Poultney and Manchester and Rupert they came singly and by twos. And from far-off Cambridge came Benedict Arnold during this last week of the Gathering for the taking of Ti.

Saturday, May 3. Dedication of Memorial

To Rev. William Emerson, pastor at Concord and eye witness of the battle at the North Bridge; chaplain at Fort Ti; died October 20, 1776 at the home of Rev. Behajah Roots in what is now West Rutland.

Ceremonies at Pleasant Street Cemetery, West Rutland. 2:00 P.M. Mrs. John H. Bloomer, presiding. Dedication and unveiling by Senator Robert T. Stafford; Remarks by Mrs. Amelia Forbes Emerson. This is a commemoration of the Battle at Concord April 19, 1775 and is Vermont's first public observance of the Bicentennial.

May 2, 3, 4. Prayerful Observance

—Bicentennial Underway in Vermont.

Friday, May 2.

Rutland Jewish Center. Rabbi Solomon D. Goldberg

Sunday, May 4.

Brandon: Congregational Church. Rev. J. P. Kvetko
United Methodist Church. Rev. Richard Marceau

Castleton: Federated Church. Rev. Gerald T. Stone
St. John's Church
St. Marks Church

Chittenden United Methodist Church. Rev. Richard Marceau

East Hubbardton Baptist Church

Hydeville Baptist Church

Proctor: Union Church. Rev. John Bixby
St. Dominic's Church. Rev. Donald C. Kelly

Rutland City: Grace Congregational United Church. Rev. David Dean
Christ the King Church. Rev. James T. Engle
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Rev. John A. Lynch
St. Peters Church. Rev. Thomas H. Connor
United Methodist Church. Rev. Roland Kelly

West Rutland: United Church. Rev. Irving E. French
St. Bridget's Church. Rev. John P. Hackett

Sunday, May 4. Loyalty Day. Bicentennial Parade.

Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 648

Arrangement Committee:

Aldo Manfredi, Darcy Bacceti, Gil Godnick, Larry Bolgioni

2:00 P.M.

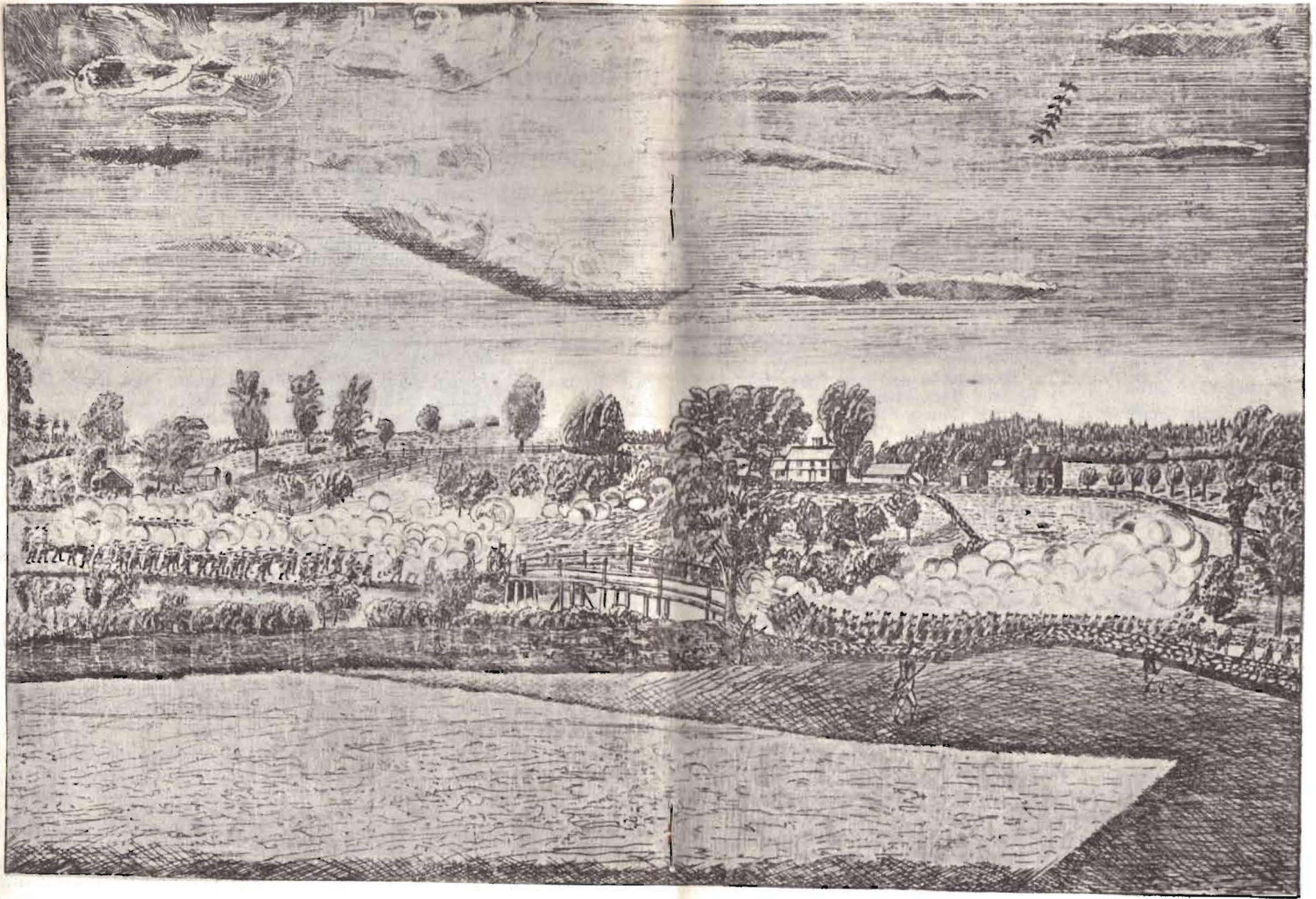
Section 1

City of Rutland Police Escort
John S. Burgess, Parade Marshal
and Chairman Vermont Bicentennial Commission
U. S. Senator Robert T. Stafford
U. S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Congressman James M. Jeffords
Hon. Thomas P. Salmon, Governor
Brian D. Burns, Lt. Governor
Gilbert G. Godnick, Mayor
General Reginald Cram, Vt. N.G.
V.F.W. Post 648 Color Guard
14th Continental Army Band,
Fort Devens, Mass.
Rutland City Police Dept.

Section 2

Joint Military Services Color Guard
Mount Saint Joseph Academy Band
Knights of Columbus Marching Unit
City of Rutland:
Delegates to Vt. General Assembly
Board of Aldermen
Board of School Commissioners
V.F.W. State Representatives
Margaret Thompson, President, Vt.
V.F.W. State Ladies Auxiliary
Aldous Ambulance Service
Rutland City Fire Department

(Continued page 18)



Painted by Ralph Earl in late April 1775 and engraved by Ezra Doolittle in the fall of the same year.

Courtesy the Albany Institute of History and Art

The Engagement at the North Bridge in Concord.

"We received the fire of the enemy in three several and separate discharges of their pieces, before it was returned by our commanding officer."

An eyewitness account by the Rev. William Emerson, minister at Concord.

Week of the Gathering, cont'd.

Section 3

Coast Guard Reserve Color Guard
40th Army Band
National Guard Units
National Guard Float
National Guard Equipment

Section 4

Rutland Legion Post 31 Color Guard
Rutland Junior H. S. Band
Northeast School
Park Street School
St. Peters School
Rutland Girl Scouts. Dist. 15
Poultney Girl Scouts
Miss Vermont—USA
Constance Crabtree

Section 5

V.F.W. Post 2571 Color Guard of
White River Junction
Proctor High School Band
Clarendon Cub Scouts Pack 11
Proctor Indian Maidens
Proctor Heritage Float
Boy Scouts of America Float
Peppermint Pipers

Section 6

West Rutland Legion Color Guard
West Rutland High School Band
West Rutland Fire Department
Green Mt. Snow Fliers—
West Rutland
Flip the Clown

Section 7

V.F.W. Post 9653 Color Guard of
Morrisville
Kurn Hattin Home Band
Rutland Town Fire Department
Green Mt. Chapter Model A Ford
Club and Float

Section 8

Cairo Temple:
Motorcycle Corps
Drum and Bugle Corps
Patrol
Director's Staff
Camel Corps
Snowmobile Patrol
Oriac Club Float

Section 9

Middlebury American Legion Color
Guard
Middlebury Union High School Band
North Clarendon Fire Department
Addison County Sheriff's Dept.

Section 10

V.F.W. Post 10155 Color Guard of
Ludlow
Black River High School Band
Rutland C.A.P. Squadron Cadets
Rutland County Humane Society
Float

Section 11

V.F.W. Post 786 Color Guard of
Woodstock
Rutland High School Band
Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.
Rutland Kiwanis Club Float

Section 12

Loyal Order of Moose Banner
Color Guard
Officers
Men's Unit
Float
Children's Unit
Women of the Moose
Loyal Order of Moose Band

Section 13

V.F.W. Post 765 of Hancock Color
Guard
Brigadier's Drum & Bugle Corps
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Marble City Riders Motorcycle Club

Section 14

Manchester American Legion Color
Guard
Burr and Burton Dixieland Band
Green Mt. Boys—Manchester
Manchester Lions Club Float
Manchester Fire Department

Section 15

Bristol American Legion Color Guard
Otter Valley Union H.S. Band
Vt. Volunteers Heavy Artillery Co.
C, 11th Reg't. Poultney
Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire Department

Section 16

Fair Haven American Legion Color
Guard
Poultney High School Band
Middletown Springs 4-H & Grange
Float
Historical Society Float
Poultney Fire Department

Section 17

Wallingford High School Band
Rutland Veteran's Council Float
Leach Acres Float—Poultney

Section 18

Springfield American Legion Color
Guard
Bethel American Legion Marching
Unit
Randolph High School Band
Presto the Magic Clown

Section 19

Golden Eagles Drum & Bugle Corps
Rutland City Recreation Dept.
Float
Sherburne Fire Department

Section 20

Mt. Anthony Union H.S. Band
Rutland South Rotary Club Float
Cavendish Fire Department

Section 21

Empire Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps
of Gloversville & Albany, N.Y.
Salvation Army
Proctorsville Fire Department

Section 22

Interstate Mens Drum & Bugle
Corps of Albany, N.Y.
Castleton Historical Society Float
Castleton Fire Department

Section 23

Green Mt. Union H.S. Band
Navy Float
Chittenden Dammers Snowmobile
Club

Section 24

Avante Garde Drum & Bugle Corps
of Saratoga, N.Y.
Civil Defense—Communications
Division

At end of parade:

Presentation of Bicentennial Flag to the City of Rutland by John S. Burgess,
Chairman of Vermont Bicentennial Commission.

To the roll and trill of assembled drums and fifes, Major Beach (Mike
Canty of Mendon) will appear and signal the start of the Gathering of the Green
Mountain Boys.

Special Town Observances of Major Beach Run

Castleton	Pawlet	Rutland City
Hubbardton	Pittsford	Rutland Town
Ira	Proctor	West Haven
Middlebury	Whiting	West Rutland

Friday, May 9. Castleton

3:00 P.M. Scouting Patrol. A group of Castleton townpeople, under command
of Captain Samuel Herrick, will leave for Skenesboro (now White-
hall) in New York to secure boats to carry the Green Mountain
Boys across the Lake.

Friday, May 9. The Last Day of the Gathering

From cabins along the Otter came Cooley and Chipman and Buck and the rest to join forces with Allen and Arnold at Hands Cove. This is the last day of the Gathering and calling them together, in a run of sixty miles, is Major Beach, portrayed on this last day by

Mike Gallagher—Chittenden

Jack Arthur—Rutland

Mike Canty—Mendon

Roger Peduzzi—Mendon

John Jaworski—Rutland

Carl Scott—Rutland

Jim Way—Sherburne

Alex Zoesch—Rutland

Tim Jones—Rutland Town

Major Beach's Route:

Leaving Remington's Tavern,

Castleton	9:30 A.M.	Salisbury	1:30 P.M.
West Rutland	10:30	Leicester	1:45
Mead's Tavern Rutland	10:45	Middlebury	2:15
Sutherland Falls (Proctor)	11:15	Cornwall	3:00
Pitts Ford	11:45	Whiting	3:45
Neshobe (Brandon)	12:45	Hands Cove (Shoreham)	4:30

Saturday, May 10. Fort Ticonderoga

Reenactments of the capture of the Fort will take place at 3:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

Through the courtesy of local industries the design of our cover, executed in Vermont marble will be presented by the people of Vermont to the people of New York.

BICENTENNIAL EXTRA!

Documents dating back to the days of the American Revolution have been re-discovered in the archives of the Rutland County Court House. These papers should be unfolded, cleaned, properly stored and catalogued. The assistant judges would be pleased to hear from the Freemen (and freewomen) of the County whether they should appropriate from County funds the sum of \$1,785.00 to match a grant already approved by the Vermont Bicentennial Commission. These papers are signed by, or involve such prominent early fathers of our area as Joseph Bowker, Ira Allen, Gershom Beach, Dr. Jonas Fay, John A. Graham, The Rev. Samuel Williams and the attorney Samuel Williams.



BY JULIA C. R. DORR.



HERE the far skies
soared clear and bright
From mountain height
to mountain height,
In the heart of a forest
old and gray,
Castleton slept one Sabbath
day,—
Slept and dreamed, on the
seventh of May,
Seventeen hundred and seventy-
five.

But hark! a humming, like bees in a hive;
Hark to the shouts,—“They come! they
come!”

Hark to the sound of the fife and drum!
For up from the south two hundred men—
Two hundred and fifty—from mount and glen,
While the deep woods rang with their rallying
cry

Of “Ticonderoga! Fort Ti! Fort Ti!”
Swept into the town with a martial tread,
Ethan Allen marching ahead!

Next day the village was all astir
With unwonted tumult and hurry. There were
Gatherings here and gatherings there,

A feverish heat in the very air,
The ominous sound of tramping feet,
And eager groups in the dusty street.
To Eben's forge strode Gershom Beach
(Idle it stood, and its master away);
Blacksmith and armorer stout was he,
First in the fight and first in the breach,
And first in work where a man should be.
“I'll borrow your tools, my friend,” he said,
“And temper these blades if I lose my head!”

So he wrought away till the sun went down,
And silence fell on the turbulent town;
And the flame of the forge through the dark-
ness glowed,

A square of light on the sandy road.
Then over the threshold a shadow fell,
And he heard a voice that he knew right well.
It was Ethan Allen's. He cried: “I knew
Where the forge-fire blazed I must look for you!
But listen! more arduous work than this,
Lying in wait for some one is;
And sharpening blades is only play
To the task I set for him this day—
Or this night, rather.” A grim smile played
O'er the armorer's face as his hand he stayed.
“Say on. I never have shirked,” said he;
“What may this wonderful task-work be?”

"To go by the light of the evening star
On an urgent errand, swift and far,—
From town to town and from farm to farm
To carry the warning and sound the alarm!
Wake Rutland and Pittsford! Rouse Ne-
shobe, too,
And all the fair valley the Otter runs through,—
For we need more men! Make no delay,
But hasten, hasten, upon your way!"



George Washington Peck

He doffed his apron, he tightened his belt,
To fasten the straps of his leggings he knelt.
"Ere the clock strikes nine," said Gershom
Beach,
"Friend Allen, I will be out of reach;
And I pledge you my word, ere dawn of day
Guns and men shall be under way.
But where shall I send these minute-men?"
"Do you know Hand's Cove?" said Allen then,
"On the shore of Champlain? Let them meet
me there
By to-morrow night, be it foul or fair!"

"Good-bye, I'm off!" Then down the road
As if on seven-league boots he strode,
While Allen watched from the forge's door
Till the stalwart form he could see no more.
Into the woods passed Gershom Beach;
By nine of the clock he was out of reach.
But still, as his will his steps outran,
He said to himself, with a laugh, "Old man,
Never a minute have you to lose,
Never a minute to pick or choose;
For sixty miles in twenty-four hours
Is surely enough to try your powers.
So square your shoulders and speed away
With never a halt by night or day."

'T was a moonless night; but over his head
The stars a tremulous luster shed,
And the breath of the woods grew strangely
sweet,

As he crushed the wild ferns under his feet,
And trampled the shy arbutus blooms,
With their hoarded wealth of rare perfumes.
He sniffed as he went. "It seems to me
There are May-flowers here, but I cannot see.
I've read of the 'hush of the silent night';
Now hark! there's a wolf on yonder height;
There's a snarling catamount prowling round;
Every inch of the 'silence' is full of sound:
The night-birds cry; the whip-poor-wills
Call to each other from all the hills;
A scream comes down from the eagle's nest;
The bark of a fox from the cliff's tall crest;
The owls hoot; and the very trees
Have something to say to every breeze!"

The paths were few and the ways were rude
In the depths of that virgin solitude.
The Indian's trail and the hunter's tracks,
The trees scarred deep by the settler's axe,
Or a cow-path leading to the creek,—
These were the signs he had to seek;
Save where, it may be, he chanced to hit
The Crown Point road and could follow it—
The road by the British troops hewn out
Under General Amherst in fifty-nine,
When he drove the French from the old redoubt,
Nor waited to give the countersign!
The streams were many and swift and clear;
But there was no bridge, or far or near.
'T was midnight as he clambered down

Near the waterfall by Rutland town,
 And found a canoe by the river's edge,
 In a tangled thicket of reeds and sedge.
 With a shout and a cheer, on the rushing tide
 He launched it and flew to the other side,
 Then giving his message, on he sped,
 By the light of the pale stars overhead ;
 Past the log church below Pine Hill,
 And the graveyard opposite. All was still,
 And the one lone sleeper lying there
 Stirred not either for cry or prayer.
 Only pausing to give the alarm
 At rude log cabin and lonely farm,
 From hamlet to hamlet he hurried along,
 Borne on by a purpose deep and strong.
 He startled the deer in the forest glade,
 Stealing along like a silent shade ;
 He wakened the loon that cries and moans
 With a living grief in its human tones.

At Pittsford the light begins to grow
 In the wakening east ; and drifting slow,
 From valley and river and wildwood, rise,
 Like the smoke of a morning sacrifice,
 Clouds of translucent, silver mist,
 Flushing to rose and amethyst ;
 While thrush and robin and bluebird sing
 Till the woods with jubilant music ring !

It was day at last ! He looked around,
 With a firmer tread on the springing ground ;
 "Now the men will be all a-field," said he,
 "And that will save many a step for me.
 Each man will be ready to go ; but still,
 I must confess, if I'd had my will,
 I'd have waited till after planting-time,
 For now the season is in its prime.

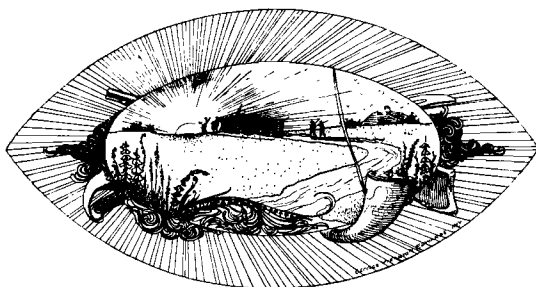
The young green leaves of the oak-tree here
 Are just the size of a squirrel's ear ;
 And I've known no rule, since I was born,
 Safer than that for planting corn !"

He threaded the valleys, he climbed the hills,
 He forded the rivers, he leaped the rills,
 While still to his call, like minute-men
 Booted and spurred, from mount and glen,
 The settlers rallied. But on he went
 Like an arrow shot from a bow, unspent,
 Down the long vale of the Otter, where
 The might of the waterfall thundered in air ;
 Then across to the lake, six leagues and more,
 Where Hand's Cove lay in the bending shore.
 The goal was reached. He dropped to the
 ground
 In a deep ravine, without word or sound ;
 And Sleep, the restorer, bade him rest
 Like a weary child, on the earth's brown breast.

At midnight he woke with a quick heart-beat,
 And sprang with a will to his wayworn feet ; —
 For armed men swarmed in the dim ravine,
 And Ethan Allen, as proud of mien
 As a king on his throne, smiled down on him,
 While he stretched and straightened each stiff-
 ened limb.

"Nay, nay," said the Colonel, "take your rest,
 As a knight who has done his chief's behest !"

"Not yet!" cried the armorer. "Where's my
 gun?
 A knight fights on till the field is won !"
 And into Fort Ti, ere dawn of day,
 He stormed with his comrades to share the
 fray !



This poem, by Rutland's own Julia Dorr, with illustrations by George Wharton Edwards is reproduced from its original published form in the July 1890 issue of St. Nicholas magazine. It is fitting we print it now in celebration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Julia Dorr's birth.

The Tranquility Stories by Col. Harold P. Sheldon. N.Y.: Winchester Press (1974) 288pp. illus., cloth. \$12.50

Reviewed by Justice Milford K. Smith

This book incorporates in one volume the *Tranquility* series, originally in three volumes, written by Col. Sheldon between World War I and World War II. Almost all of the stories are laid in the country west of Birdseye, particularly in the vicinity of Fair Haven where the Sheldon family have had their home for many generations.

"Mike" Sheldon, as he was known to his many Vermont friends, had a distinguished military career, was Fish and Game Commissioner of Vermont at one time, and served in the highest post of the Fish and Game Service of the Federal government. He was nationally known as an expert on firearms and as a popular writer for many outdoor periodicals. His great love was the Vermont outdoors—the fields, woods and duck marshes. This love is evident in every *Tranquility* story. In many ways his writing can be compared with that of Rowland Robinson, whose feeling for the Vermont people, language and countryside, during the first part of the nineteenth century is matched in many ways by Col. Sheldon's same understanding one hundred years later.

The plots of Sheldon's stories are simple; having almost entirely to do with adventures afield in quest of partridge, woodcock and duck. His characters, based upon real Fair Haven people of his era, are warm and amusing. *Tranquility* is a warm and cheerful world—a mixture of good friends, flying birds, and the tickling in the nostrils of Nitro smoke after a well-aimed shot. While the stories have their primary appeal to sportsmen, Col. Sheldon's almost poetic descriptions of the upper Champlain country have an appeal to any lover of the Vermont out-of-doors.

Old timers, who read and re-read the original *Tranquility* series will welcome back the book and its characters. Younger Vermonters, as well as outdoorsmen everywhere, will find that *Tranquility*, the Captain, the Judge and the Doctor will provide them with surroundings, neighbors and adventures that are warm and delightful, and to be returned to again and again.

Supreme Court Justice Smith, a charter member of the Society and one of its first Directors, is the author of the newspaper column "Stray Shots and Short Casts."

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